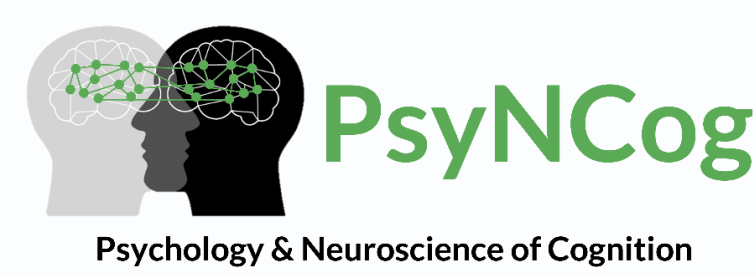


Did it happen or not?

Memory narratives may hold the answer



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INTRODUCTION

1. “Nonbelieved memory” (NBM) is an autobiographical memory that, despite a vivid recollection, is no longer believed to represent an actual event (Mazzoni et al., 2010).
2. Belief in the occurrence of a past event can be suppressed or only reduced.
3. NBMs can be categorised into three distinct subtypes – “classic”, “weak” and “grain of doubt” – depending on the level of recollection and autobiographical belief (Scoboria et al., 2014).
4. While previous studies have examined the characteristics of NBMs using questionnaires, none have analysed the narratives of these memories (Otgaar et al. 2014).

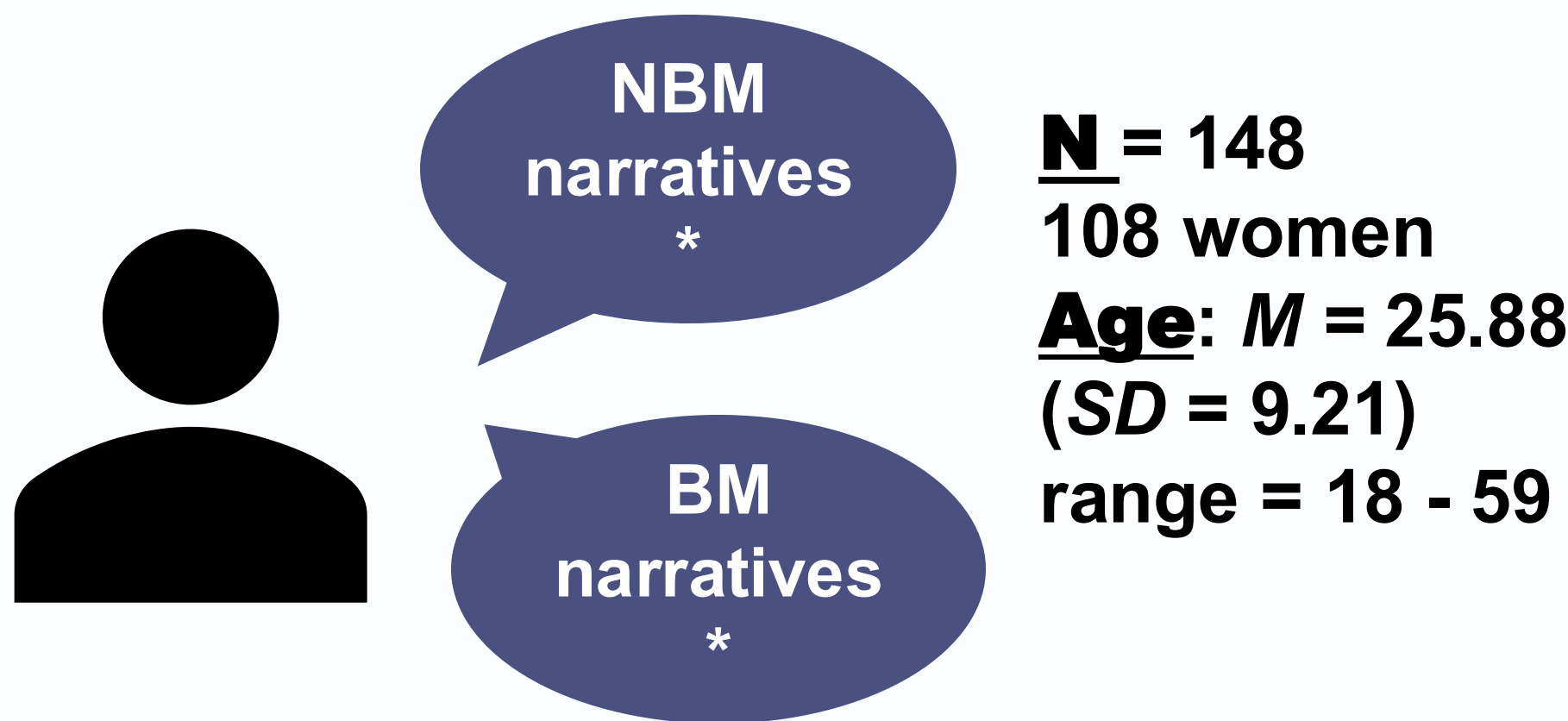
OBJECTIVES

To investigate how these memories are reported, focusing on:

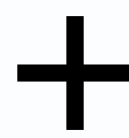
- comparisons between NBMs and BMs (believed memories) narratives
- the influence of NBM subtypes and type of belief change
- the role of temporal variables (distance from the event, distance from the belief change, and belief duration)

METHOD

MEMORIES COLLECTION



*From approximately the same period of the participants' lives



Ratings of the characteristics of each memory on a 7-point Likert scale.

LINGUISTIC MARKERS EXTRACTION

Extraction of

- Standard linguistic markers
- Markers related to psychological processes:
 - Cognitive
 - Perceptual
 - Contextual

Markers were extracted from each narrative using LIWC (Tausczik & Pennebaker, 2010)

MAIN RESULTS

INFLUENCE OF MEMORY TYPES, NBM SUBTYPES AND TYPE OF BELIEF CHANGE

Linear mixed effects models:

1. Type of memory (NBM vs. BM) x Subtypes of NBM (classic vs. weak vs. grain of doubt)
2. Type of memory (NBM vs. BM) x Type of belief change (reduced vs. suppressed)

	MAIN EFFECT	INTERACTION (Type of memory x Subtypes of NBM)	INTERACTION (Type of memory x Type of belief change)
Word count	NBM > BM	n.s	n.s
1 st person pronouns	NBM > BM	n.s	n.s
Past tenses	BM > NBM	n.s	n.s
Present tenses	n.s	NBM > BM only in grain of doubt NBM	n.s
Cognitive markers	NBM > BM	n.s.	n.s.
Insight	NBM > BM	n.s.	n.s.
Causality	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Discrepancy	NBM > BM	n.s.	n.s.
Doubt	n.s.	n.s.	NBM > BM when belief is suppressed
Certainty	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Perceptual (all categories)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Contextual (all categories)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.

INFLUENCE OF TEMPORAL VARIABLES

Robust linear mixed effects models:

1. Subtypes of NBM OR Type of belief change x distance from event
2. Subtypes of NBM OR Type of belief change x belief duration x distance from belief change

SIGNIFICANT MAIN EFFECTS

Belief duration negatively predicted word count ($r = -0.055$) and the proportion of certainty markers ($r = -0.124$) and positively predicted the proportion of insight markers ($r = 0.116$).

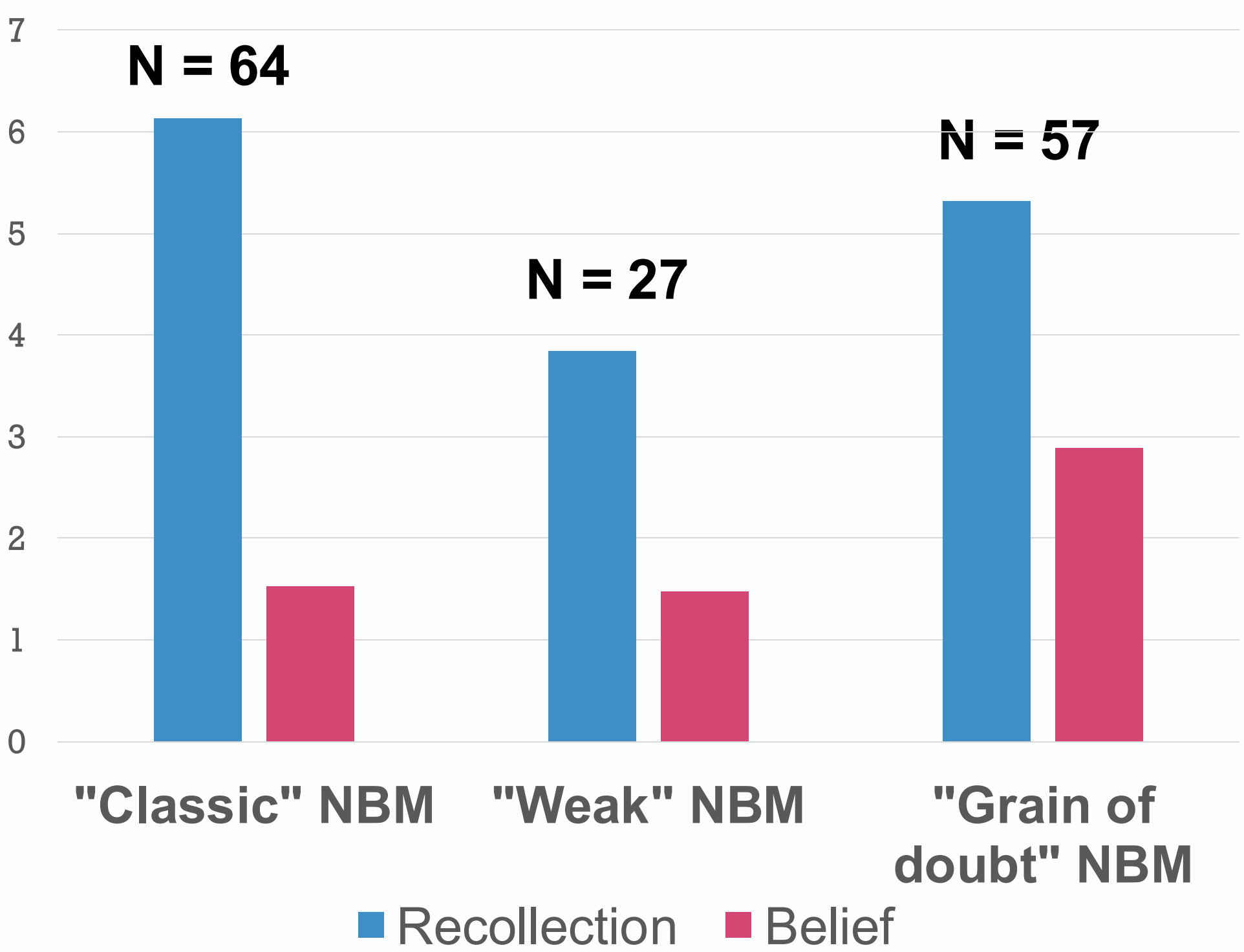
SIGNIFICANT INTERACTIONS

Type of belief change x Distance from event on visual markers

- Visual markers increased with temporal distance from the event ($r = 0.291$), but only when belief was suppressed ($trend_{diff} = -0.048$, $p = 0.019$).

NBM SUBTYPES

K-means analysis (three-cluster model) based on recollection and belief in occurrence ratings



CONCLUSION

1. NBM and BM narratives differ in length, tense usage, self-reference and cognitive markers, while showing no significant differences in perceptual or contextual markers.
2. The frequency of present-tense use in the narratives was influenced by the NBM subtype, while the frequency of doubt marker use was influenced by the type of belief change.
3. Temporal factors showed limited but specific effects, notably on word count and visual, certainty and insight markers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

